

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BONN 07415 01 OF 02 201528Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00
ICAE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 HA-05 IO-13 /080 W
-----103831 201537Z /70

O R 201514Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7895
USMISSION USBERLIN
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 07415

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, BQG
SUBJECT: PROPOSALS FOR STATEMENTS ON NICO HUEBNER CASE

REFS: (A) USBER 904
(B) STATE 96906
(C) BONN 6944
(D) BONN 6919

BEGIN SUMMARY: THE APRIL 19 BONN GROUP MEETING FAILED
TO REACH AGREEMENT ON A SCENARIO FOR STATEMENTS ON THE
HUEBNER CASE. WE HAVE SUGGESTED A THREE-PART SCENARIO
OF A DEMARCHE TO THE SOVIETS, A PUBLIC STATEMENT AND
FINALLY THE REPLY TO THE LETTERS FROM LORENZ ET AL. THE
FRG CONSIDERS A PUBLIC STATEMENT TO BE IMPORTANT. THE
FRENCH AND BRITISH ARE SEEKING NEW INSTRUCTIONS. UNLESS
OTHERWISE INSTRUCTED, WE WILL ASSUME THE PROPOSED
SCENARIO IS CONSISTENT WITH OUR INSTRUCTIONS AND THE
DEPARTMENT'S WISHES. END SUMMARY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BONN 07415 01 OF 02 201528Z

1. AT THE APRIL 19 BONN GROUP MEETING, THE FRENCH REP
(RICHARD) SAID THE QUAI WANTED NO PUBLIC STATEMENT,
ONLY AN APPROACH TO THE SOVIETS (REF C).
2. THE UK REP (EYERS) SAID LONDON SAW NO ADVANTAGE IN
AN APPROACH TO SOVIETS. AS A GENERAL PRINCIPLE, WE

SHOULD NOT MAKE PROTESTS WHICH HAVE NO PURPOSE AND NOTHING THAT WE SAY WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THIS CASE. HUEBNER IS MERELY ONE OF THOUSANDS WHO HAVE BEEN INDUCTED INTO THE EAST GERMAN ARMY.

3. THE US REP REPORTED HIS INSTRUCTIONS (REF B) AND SAID THAT WE COULD ACCEPT BOTH AN APPROACH TO THE SOVIETS AND A PUBLIC STATEMENT IF THAT WERE NECESSARY TO REACH AGREEMENT. HE NOTED THAT THE ALLIED MISSIONS HAD RECOMMENDED USING THE REPLY TO LORENZ AS A MEANS TO MAKE OUR POSITION PUBLIC (REF A). EYERS AND RICHARD SAID THAT THEY DID NOT BELIEVE THEIR MISSIONS IN BERLIN HAD AGREED TO THE APPROACH SUGGESTED BY USBER.

4. RICHARD SAID THAT WHAT THE FRENCH HAVE IN MIND IS TO USE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE AN INDICATION TO THE SOVIETS OF THE ALLIED POSITION ON DEMILITARIZATION OF ALL OF GREATER BERLIN. HE AGREED THAT THE UK DRAFT STATEMENT (REF D) IS A GOOD ONE AND THAT SOMETHING ALONG THESE LINES COULD BE USED FOR THE PROTEST TO THE SOVIETS. WITH REGARD TO THE PROPOSAL FOR A PUBLIC STATEMENT, HE SAID THAT STOBBE IS NOT DEMANDING IT AND THAT THE QUAI BELIEVES IT IS RATHER LATE TO MAKE A PUBLIC STATEMENT ON THE HUEBNER CASE. HOWEVER, HE COULD AGREE TO RECOMMEND TO THE QUAI A LOW-KEY PUBLIC STATEMENT.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BONN 07415 01 OF 02 201528Z

5. THE US REP AGREED THAT TIME IS WORKING AGAINST US. IF WE DELAY MAKING A PUBLIC STATEMENT UNTIL THIS IS EFFECTIVELY DONE BY THE EXPECTED PUBLICATION (BY LORENZ OR OTHERS) OF THE ALLIED REPLIES TO THE LETTERS WE HAVE RECEIVED, A GREAT DEAL OF TIME COULD BE LOST IN VIEW OF THE PRESUMED NEED FOR HIGH-LEVEL APPROVAL OF THE TEXT OF THE LETTERS. HE SUGGESTED THAT CONSIDERATION MIGHT BE GIVEN TO A THREE-PART SCENARIO: 1) A LOW-KEY DEMARCHE TO THE SOVIETS; 2) A LOW-KEY PUBLIC STATEMENT (PERHAPS IN RESPONSE TO A PLANTED QUESTION FROM THE PRESS) MAKING CLEAR THAT WE HAD MADE OUR VIEW KNOWN TO THE SOVIETS; 3) A REPLY TO THE LETTERS OF LORENZ ET AL.

6. FRG REP (VON BRAUNMUEHL) SAID THAT THIS IS AN ALLIED MATTER AND THE FRG PROCEEDS ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE ALLIES WILL MAINTAIN THEIR POSITION ON THE STATUS OF BERLIN. THE FRG ALSO AGREES THAT THE ALLIES SHOULD NOT BE DRAWN INTO THE PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF THE MATTER. HOWEVER, ON A CONFIDENTIAL BASIS, HE INFORMED THE BONN GROUP THAT CDU CHAIRMAN KOHL HAD WRITTEN GENSCHER TO THE EFFECT THAT THE SILENCE OF THE ALLIES

ON THE SUBJECT IS BEING DISCUSSED AND THAT CONTINUED

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BONN 07415 02 OF 02 201529Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00
ICAE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 HA-05 IO-13 /080 W
-----103832 201539Z /70

O R 201514Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7896
USMISSION USBERLIN
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 07415

SILENCE COULD HAVE CONSEQUENCES FOR THE PUBLIC AND
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE ON THE ISSUE. VON BRAUNMUEHL SAID
THAT ANY STEP WE TAKE WITH THE SOVIETS, WITHOUT
TAKING A PUBLIC STAND ON THE ISSUE, WOULD NOT SATISFY
THE PUBLIC INTEREST AND CONCERN. THE ALLIES SHOULD
MAKE SOME FORM OF PUBLIC STATEMENT AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE SINCE THE PUBLIC SPECULATION AND DEBATE WILL
NOT OTHERWISE SUBSIDE.

7. EYERS SAID THAT SINCE IT APPEARS THE US AND FRG ARE
PREPARED TO AGREE BOTH TO A PUBLIC STATEMENT AND A
DEMARCHE TO THE SOVIETS, WHILE THE FRENCH ARE
UNDER INSTRUCTIONS TO AGREE ONLY TO A DEMARCHE AND THE
BRITISH TO AGREE ONLY TO A PUBLIC STATEMENT, THE BRITISH
AND FRENCH SHOULD DETERMINE WHETHER THERE IS MORE
FLEXIBILITY IN THEIR CAPITALS. HE ALSO SAID THAT
THE BONN GROUP HAD MOVED OUT AHEAD OF THE BERLIN MISSIONS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BONN 07415 02 OF 02 201529Z

AND, IN VIEW OF THE IMPORTANCE OF CLOSE COORDINATION AND AGREEMENT WITH THE MISSIONS ON THIS ISSUE, WE SHOULD LEAVE THE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY AT THIS STAGE TO THE BERLIN MISSIONS. THIS WAS AGREED.

8. COMMENT: AS NOTED ABOVE AND IN REF A, THERE IS A SUBSTANTIAL LIKELIHOOD OF DELAY IN OBTAINING FINAL APPROVAL OF THE TEXT OF A REPLY TO LORENZ, ET AL. IT IS OUR VIEW, AND THIS APPEARED GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE TO THE OTHER BONN GROUP REPS, THAT A DEMARCHE TO THE SOVIETS AND A PUBLIC STATEMENT SHOULD BE MADE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. WE ALSO QUESTION WHETHER A LETTER TO A MEMBER OF AN OPPOSITION PARTY IS THE APPROPRIATE WAY TO PUT THE ALLIED POSITION ON THE PUBLIC RECORD. HAVING MADE A DEMARCHE AND PUBLIC STATEMENT, THE RESPONSE TO LORENZ WILL BE MUCH EASIER SINCE IT CAN REAFFIRM THE CONTENT OF THE PUBLIC STATEMENT. UNLESS INSTRUCTED TO THE CONTRARY, WE WILL ASSUME THAT THE SCENARIO IN PARAGRAPH 5 SUPRA IS CONSISTENT WITH OUR INSTRUCTIONS AND THE DEPARTMENT'S WISHES.

9. IN THE COURSE OF THE DISCUSSION WE NOTED USBER'S COMMENT (REF A) THAT THE TEXT OF THE PROPOSED STATEMENT IN REF D MIGHT BE MISLEADING. SINCE THE PRESENT CONSENSUS IS TO LEAVE TO THE MISSIONS THE DRAFTING RESPONSIBILITY, WE ASSUME USBER WILL DEAL WITH THIS QUESTION.

MEEHAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEMARCH, BRIEFING MATERIALS, COURTS MARTIAL, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BONN07415
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780169-0396
Format: TEL
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780437/aaaabeso.tel
Line Count: 202
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b03501ab-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 USBERLIN 904, 78 STATE 96906, 78 BONN 6944, 78 BONN 6919
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2908331
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROPOSALS FOR STATEMENTS ON NICO HUEBNER CASE
TAGS: PGOV, BQG, (HUEBNER, NICO)
To: STATE USBERLIN
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b03501ab-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014